

charge any additional fee required for the extension, and credit any overpayment, to
Deposit Account 06-1205.

Amendment

The Examiner is respectfully requested to amend the above-identified
application as follows.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend Claims 1 and 6 to read as follows. A marked-up copy of
Claims 1 and 6, showing the changes made thereto, is attached. Note that all the claims
currently pending in this application, including those not presently being amended, have
been reproduced below for the Examiner's convenience.

1. (Amended) A process for forming images comprising the steps of:
conducting recording on a recording medium provided with an
image-receiving layer, the image-receiving layer containing particles having a diameter of
0.1 to 10 μm for imparting a matted appearance to the surface of the image-receiving layer;
and
laminating a laminating film comprising a thermoplastic film without a
backing layer onto the image-receiving layer and smoothing a surface of the thermoplastic

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film by heating and pressurizing means to bond a back side of the thermoplastic film onto the image-receiving layer.

2. A process for forming images as set forth in Claim 1, wherein a surface glossiness of the heating and pressurizing means is equal or greater than 10% at an incident angle of 20°.

3. A process for forming images as set forth in Claim 2, wherein the surface glossiness is equal or greater than 70% at an incident angle of 75°.

4. A process for forming images as set forth in Claim 1, wherein either a glass transition point of the thermoplastic film is lower than a glass transition point of a binder resin in the image-receiving layer or a film-forming temperature of the thermoplastic film is lower than a film-forming temperature of a binder resin in the image-receiving layer.

5. A process for forming images as set forth in Claim 1, wherein the thermoplastic film is a laminate of two or more thermoplastic polymer layers.

6. (Amended) An apparatus for forming images comprising:
an ink-jet head for recording on a recording medium;

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a laminate section for laminating a laminating film comprised of a thermoplastic film without a backing layer onto the recording medium on which recording has been conducted; and

heating and pressurizing means for smoothing the thermoplastic film by heating and pressurizing and bonding a back side of the thermoplastic film onto an image-receiving layer of the recording medium.

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully solicited.

Claims 1-6 remain pending in the application, with Claims 1 and 6 being independent. Claims 1 and 6 have been amended herein.

Claims 1 and 6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as obvious over U.S. Patent No. 5,306,381 (Nakazawa, et al.). Claims 2 and 3 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Nakazawa, et al. and further in view of U.S. Patent Nos. 4,865,675 (Yamamoto, et al.) and 5,750,200 (Ogawa, et al.). Claim 4 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Nakazawa, et al. Claim 5 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Nakazawa, et al. and further in view of Yamamoto, et al. and Japanese Patent Document No. 5-269949 (Tanaka, et al.). These rejections are respectfully traversed.